

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 02817 221750Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00
DHA-02 SY-05 AID-05 PRS-01 PA-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01 MCT-01 IO-13
SP-02 L-03 /076 W
-----039429 221755Z /46

O R 221628Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4294
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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USIA FOR IOP/M, ILA

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: GOU RELEASES URUGUAYAN AP STAFFER

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 2806, B) MONTEVIDEO 2795

1. SHORTLY BEFORE 8:00 P.M. ON JULY 21, GOU AUTHORITIES
RELEASED RAUL GARCES, THE URUGUAYAN CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSO-
CIATED PRESS OFFICE IN MONTEVIDEO WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED
AS PER REFTTEL A FOR 28 HOURS OF QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION
WITH STORIES HE HAD FILED.

2. WILLIAM NICHOLSON, AP REGIONAL BUREAU CHIEF IN BUENOS
AIRES, TOLD THE IO HE HAD FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING
TO SEE THE INTERIOR MINISTER, GENERAL HUGO LINARES BRUM, AND
WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM TO HAVE GARCES FREED. NICHOLSON
SAID GARCES HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALTY CHARGED BY THE GOU,
BUT, HE SAID, LINARES BRUM TOLD HIM "IT WOULD BE A GOOD
IDEA" FOR AP TO TRANSFER GARCES OUT OF URUGUAY, REPORTEDLY
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ON GROUNDS THAT "HE ALWAYS REPORTED NEGATIVE NEWS".

3. NICHOLSON EXPLAINED TO THE MINISTER THAT OBVIOUSLY ANY
DECISION TO TRANSFER GARCES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY AP
OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK, BUT THAT HE PLANNED TO TAKE GARCES
BACK TO BUENOS AIRES LATER TODAY FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF REST.
NICHOLSON SAID GARCES HAD BEEN PUT INTO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

MENT AT INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS AND WAS OBLIGED TO SURRENDER HIS BELT, WATCH AND OTHER PERSONAL EFFECTS. HE SAID THAT OTHERWISE GARCES WAS TREATED PROPERLY AND WELL DURING HIS PERIOD OF DETENTION.

4. NICHOLSON EXPLAINED TO THE IO THAT DURING HIS TALK WITH LINARES BRUM HE ALSO RAISED THE MATTER OF "THE DISAPPEARANCE" HERE OF FLAVIO TAVARES, THE BUENOS AIRES CORRESPONDENT OF THE MEXICAN PAPER, EL EXCELSIOR, AS PER REFTEL B. HE SAID THE MINISTER RESPONDED WITH SURPRISE. "WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DISAPPEARANCE? HE'S RIGHT HERE IN JAIL."

5. NICHOLSON TOLD THE MINISTER IF SUCH WERE THE CASE, THIS WAS THE FIRST OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF HIS ARREST. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT ONCE THE GOU FREED GARCES, THE AP WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT A STORY ON HIS RELEASE COULD BE FILED TOGETHER WITH THE STATEMENT FROM LINARES BRUM CONFIRMING THE ARREST OF TAVARES. HE SAID THE MINISTER LIKED THE SUGGESTION, ADDING THE COMMENT THAT "WE'LL BE HAPPY TO GET RID OF THIS GUY", AND THEN MADE A PHONE CALL TO HAVE GARCES RELEASED.

6. NICHOLSON SAID HE THEN RETURNED TO THE AP OFFICE AND THAT SHORTLY THEREAFTER GARCES WALKED IN "OBVIOUSLY WITH HIS SPIRIT BROKEN AND I GUESS HE PROBABLY WANTS OUT" OF URUGUAY, HE ADDED.
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7. NICHOLSON EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE EMBASSY FOR ITS ASSISTANCE IN DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM ON THURSDAY WITH OFFICIALS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS PER REFTEL A. HE SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS TO HIM THAT THIS ASSISTANCE HAD SOME EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS CASE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770262-0722
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From: MONTEVIDEO
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: SHUM, UY, (GARCES, RAUL)
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